

Your area in the city is known as Little India

The Education system is going to go into a crisis in the near future.

A well-known Academic Friend of mine on my saying I was no racist remarked that we did not feel India and we raped India with white people

When I went to school in Auckland NZ there were Maori, Chinese, Japs - Solomon Islanders & the rest.

Result I am colour blind when seeing people. When they introduced Free-paddy schools in NZ the poorer people did their utmost to 'keep up with the Jones'. A very old situation - like when the kids wore poorer clothes and advertised their poverty

Learning from new cultures

Sir, — Regarding Power for Parents as envisaged by the Scottish Minister for Education The Rt. Hon. Michael Forsyth, MP, it will be interesting to see how the ethnic communities will take their share of responsibility in the following schools which are predominately "coloured." I use this word purely as a contrast and not in a racial context: Pollokshields Primary, Bellahouston Primary and Secondary, Willowbank, also Hillhead, and Woodside Secondary.

They have their own culture and habits and are on the whole very law-abiding, very considerate in looking after their young and old dependants and mostly in business for themselves. They are bi-lingual and their mother tongue is the one used in their homes. It poses the question whether they will be interested enough to come on to parents' committees or leave it to the present parent committee which is not in the majority.

At present a teacher in a primary school is teaching two groups in the same curriculum when the first language of the ethnic group is not the same as the native language. A difficult

situation but being overcome to some extent. Are we going to see a Bradford-type situation arising, such as school meals, religion, culture, etc.? The very large ethnic areas in Glasgow and their predominance in business and their dedication to trading makes it seem unlikely that they will take up their legitimate right to determine what books, meals, etc. are to be encouraged, thereby leaving these decisions to a minority of 'white' parents' committees, a recipe for racism.

Racism, black or white, is to be deplored and it can only be hoped that in the future Glasgow will benefit from the introduction and opportunities of learning new cultures and habits and an understanding of real coexistence. The future increase in the population of these fertile areas suggests a real need for more primary schools, with more teachers in the ethnic schools to retain the religion and culture of their Motherlands.

John E. Hunter.

320 Mossbank Drive,
Glasgow. 27-8-87.

GLASGOW HERALD

The birthplace of Glasgow

Parent power and the Kirk

Sir, — I think that the Church of Scotland is endeavouring to come to terms with the introduction of parental control in schools, especially in the context of religious education. With the introduction of the Education Act of 1872 the Church handed over their schools to the state. Elected school boards were given the responsibility of fostering universal education. This was the first that was to bring about a varied interpretation of religious education was probably a forerunner to the widespread reception that religious education is now experiencing in schools.

It may be wrong but I was under the impression as far back as the late eighties and early thirties that religion was the only compulsory subject in the school curriculum.

The fact that the Minister of Education was sent on a fact-finding tour of America to discover how children should be brought up in this country is in itself an indication of the Government's lack of understanding and knowledge of how Scotland's educational system was

formed and the world-wide recognition of its contributions to a sound system of school and learning values.

The Education Act of 1696 made it compulsory for each parish to set up a school. Because landowners could not be forced to pay the rates the Act could not be enforced, but most parishes had a school. An Act of 1807 gave large parishes the right to set up side schools so that children would not have long distances to travel. In particular, extra schools were set up in the Highlands by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge which emphasised reading and writing in English and learning skills, particularly spinning. Adventure schools were privately financed, the fees going to the teacher to maintain them. The basic salary of a parish teacher at that time was in the region of £4 a year.

Burgh schools were also in existence at this time, sometimes referred to as grammar schools, Latin being the main subject. There were also commercial and writing schools which taught bookkeeping and

navigation. Academies were being set up about 1760 teaching modern subjects such as mathematics and eventually many joined up with grammar schools. Many of the fee-paying schools were first set up as charitable schools instituting education for poor people.

By this time Scotland had five universities, St Andrews, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and two in Aberdeen. During the 18th and 19th centuries these universities had a sound reputation for academic instruction and the teaching of each subject had an individual professor: the language of tuition now being English in place of Latin.

These universities attracted some of the most brilliant professors of their generation — the economist Adam Smith, the philosopher Francis Hutcheson, and the eminent historian Principal Robertson. Scottish medical and scientific education was under the tuition and guidance of people like William Cullen and Joseph Black, attracting students from England and abroad. The fees were kept low so that impoverished students with ability could attend the classes.

This was the basis on which the present system of education was secured on a sound foundation. The estimated population of Scotland in 1755 was 1,265,000. This was an increasing population as the number of immigrants was exceeding the number emigrating. The increasing number of immigrants coming into the country now is history repeating itself in a rising birth rate and a fall in the death rate due to better nutrition and hygiene.

In certain areas of Glasgow there seems to be an ever-increasing population of young children and adequate schooling will be a prime task for all who have the educational welfare of children at heart. The Church of Scotland is renewing its stance on religious education and in the foreseeable future we may see various schools adopting the religions of the pupils' Motherland; alternatively different religious classes could be taught in the same school.

John E. Hunter.

320 Mossbank Drive,
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Glasgow Herald 5-11-87

NOTE ON SOURCES

The life of the trade union historian would be a much easier one if unions kept their records neatly in an orderly office. Union officials rarely, in past and present, have had the time to order their affairs as they would like. Thus, few trade unions possess a comprehensive set of records. The Denniston Miners' Union is no exception. Apart from a deposit in the Turnbull Library, (Denniston Miners' Industrial Union of Workers: Miscellaneous papers, 1880 — 1969) little has survived the passing of time. The following notes are offered as a starting point for those wishing to delve deeper than this survey history takes them. Where chapters rest upon my own as yet unpublished material the references are given more fully.

1. The struggle for acceptance, 1884 — 1890. Appendix and Journal to the New Zealand House of Representatives (AJHR), 1880, D4, pp. 1-13; Union Steam Ship Company Archives, especially the correspondence between C Holdsworth and G McLean; Westport Coal Company Minute Book, 1884-5; *Lyttelton Times* 12 April, 9 August 1889, 1 April, 2 August, 7 October 1890; *Grey River Argus* 16, 24 December 1884, 25 January 1887, 9, 17 July, 16 October, 3, 13 December 1889, 4, 7, 8 July, 23 September, 9, 8, 10, 27 October 1890, 16 March, 21 September 1891; *Barnsley Chronicle*, 18 August 1879, 13 March 1880.

The following theses and books were also helpful: E A Smallholme-Fraser, 'The evolution of the coal mining community of Denniston', M A thesis, University of Canterbury, 1978; P I Redmond, 'The rise of the Grey Valley Coal Industry, 1860-1890', M A thesis, University of Canterbury, 1978; Ian Merritt, 'A reappraisal of the 1890 maritime strike in New Zealand', M A thesis, University of Canterbury, 1969; John

1887-1918' in Philip Ross May (ed) *Miners and Militants*, University of Canterbury, 1975; G L Pople, *Malvern County*, Malvern County Council, 1953, has some comments on John Lomas's pre-Denniston, New Zealand career; Frank Machin, *The Yorkshire Miners* volume 1, National Union of Mineworkers, 1958.

2. The struggle to resurrect the Denniston Miners' Union from the defeat of 1890 is extremely difficult to reconstruct. The following were the most helpful: *Denniston Industrial Association of Workers and the Westport Coal Company*, Westport, Tyrell and Co., Printers, 1896; *Lyttelton Times*, 19 March, 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 17, 24 April 1891, 23 July 1891; *Grey River Argus* 21 September 1891; *New Zealand Parliamentary Debates (NZPD)*, 1891-1898; James Holt, 'The political origins of compulsory arbitration in New Zealand: a comparison with Great Britain' *New Zealand Journal of History*, 1976, pp 99-109; James Holt, 'Compulsory Arbitration in New Zealand, 1894-1901, the evolution of an industrial relations system,' *New Zealand Journal of History*, 1980, pp 179-200.

3. The coming of the Red Feds, 1900-1914. The best single source of information for this period is the *Maoriland Worker* which the Federation of Labour purchased from the Shearers' Union in 1911. Other useful sources are: P J O'Farrell, 'Politics and coal: the socialist vanguard, 1904-8' in Philip Ross May (ed), *Miners and Militants*, pp 101-127; P Hickey *Red Fed Memoirs*, Wellington, 1925; Valerie Smith, 'General History of the Federation of Labour, 1900-1914' in Philip Ross May (ed), *Miners and Militants*, pp 128-147.

ELAINE C. SMITH

Interview by Molly Kelly
Picture by Alan Ewing

I'm not prepared to slave over a hot stove at the end of a hectic working day'

The good news is that Mary Nesbitt, of *Comedy Partners*, had a lovely summer!

Her fitba'-daft husband, Bob C. Nesbitt, took off for Italy and the World Cup.

The bad news is that Rab is back home with a fund of soccer stories. End of lovely summer for Mary!

As fans of the popular television series *Naked Video* know, Mary Nesbitt is actually Baillieston-born comedy actress Elaine C. Smith. She (and Rab) can be seen again in another six episodes to be screened this autumn.

She is also renowned for her side-splitting role as a harassed housewife in the stage production of *The Steamie*, a comedy set in a Glasgow public wash-house, and for her parts with the Wildcat Theatre Company.

Elaine, recently returned from Canada, starred in *The Grid Sisters*, which was the only British production in Toronto's world stage festival.

In real life, Elaine is as fitba'-daft-crazy as Rab, played by actor Gregor Fisher.

"I'm a great Celtic supporter," declared Elaine. "I love Scotland and I watched every one of Scotland's World Cup games on the telly."

Before going into showbiz, Elaine was a drama teacher at Firhill High School, Edinburgh.

"I thought the theatre was frightfully 'dahling' and Royal Shakespeare Company," she joked. "Now I'm now better!"

Elaine is married to 38-year-old freelance theatre administrator Bob Morton. The couple live in a third floor, six apartment tenement flat in Glasgow's East End with their lively, 18-month-old daughter Katie.

"Our home is a very private place," said Elaine. "I have lots of friends who have never been invited here. Also I would never dream of asking business

contacts to our flat. If there's business to be discussed, it can be talked about over lunch in a restaurant.

"But I do enjoy entertaining really close chums. These include actor Peter Capaldi, who appeared in the film *Local Hero*, and actress Elaine Collins."

Sometimes Elaine and husband Bob have pals staying at their flat. When that is the case, Elaine always makes huge breakfasts. "Bacon, eggs, Lorne sausages, black pudding, fried potato scones and toast - the lot!" she laughed.

But otherwise she confines her culinary skills to dinner parties. "I love cooking," said Elaine. "Everybody, including Bob, thinks I'm a very inventive cook. I'm inclined to agree! I can always be relied on to conjure up a tasty meal even when there are only odds-and-ends in the fridge."

"But I'm not prepared to slave over a hot stove at the end of a hectic working day. It's a quick dash to the nearest Marks and Spencer food hall at these times!"

"It was my dad, Jimmy, an engineer, who taught me to cook. He's a really great cook and always makes a meal on Sundays at my parents' home in Newarthill."

Elaine likes guests who arrive at least 15 minutes late. "I'm never ready at the appointed time!" she confessed. "I also like people who are good conversationalists. Most of my friends share my left-wing political views," she stated, "so I don't mind politics being discussed. It doesn't bother me, either, if religion is brought up, provided that the views put forward are tolerant."

"It's nice if people phone afterwards or drop a wee note, to say they've enjoyed themselves," said Elaine. "But it doesn't matter if they don't."

She stands 5ft 3in tall and weighs a curvy 9st 10lbs.

"I sometimes go on a low-fat diet to keep my weight at a reasonable level," she revealed. "I also do aerobic exercises."

Elaine is already planning daughter Katie's second birthday party.

"There was a grand total of 80 guests - relatives, close friends and other children - at her first birthday party," summed up Elaine.

"I reckon that there will be around the same number at the next shindig. I'll provide a buffet with smoked salmon, cold meats, sausage rolls, cakes and so on."

"It means a lot of hard work, but it's well worth the effort!"

Elaine (left) in her kitchen at home



War of words hits authors

GLASGOW authors have been slammed ... by an Edinburgh professor.

David Daiches is a former professor of English at Edinburgh

By ANGELA DEWAR

University.

And in a recent lecture he claimed modern writers were painting a dark and dismal picture of the City of Culture.

He targeted the work of authors James Kelman

and Ian McGuinness in the lecture.

On James Kelman's novel, A Disaffection, he said: "The rendering of Glasgow working-class speech is done with brutal obscenity."

Hopeless

"Glasgow itself is a City of Dreadful Night."

And he refers to Ian McGuinness' book, Inner City, as "totally hopeless".

Ian McGuinness has hit back at the claims made by Daiches, saying that any work of fiction was a personal view.

He said: "I am not writing a guide book."

"It is not supposed to be a factual account of what to do and where to eat in Glasgow."

James Kelman's agent said the writer was "unaware of the lecture".

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Jim! For make the
Head lines?

DAICHES:

A biography of

Burns

Ethnic Glasgow

In "Bleak outlook for Britain" (November) there were two very significant observations made:

"There should only be human and personal relations among the children of one God, in a free, law-abiding, and colour-blind society. But we have to reckon with people as they are, not as they ought to be" and also that "Black racism and white racism are equally at odds with the will and love of God."

There is a tendency among our legislators whether at

Governmental, District level to ignore apprehensions of ordinary citizens where a district becomes overwhelmingly populated by ethnic communities. Whether this means that our legislators are doing this in a vote-catching exercise or just sweeping it under the carpet as a convenient method of not facing up to realities, is a matter for conjecture. Our Asian friends are on the whole, very law-abiding, very considerate in looking after their young and old and mostly in business for themselves; and they are bilingual.

Glasgow on the whole is a very caring and warm-hearted city and renowned for its hospitality to visitors and tourists. But there is a growing concern about the antagonism being directed against these people. For all the propaganda by the media about extremely good relations prevailing in the city there is a real concern about the deterioration in attitudes when one frequents the areas taken over by the immigrants. I refer to the following areas and the local schools. Bellahouston Academy (primary and secondary; known locally as Bangladesh Academy), about 60 per cent ethnic: Hillhead, Woodside Senior Secondary, about the same and Willowbank must be in the region of 80 per cent ethnic. These whole areas have been taken over and there is real concern about the future.

On the whole they have large families (by our standards) and the growing school population will soon be a major issue. The school rolls in these areas are growing fast. As most of these people are in their own businesses they will be entitled to demand a good standard of education and one to suit their cultural and religious requirements. As one of your readers deplored the lack of religious instruction in schools (in my youth the morning class was always opened up with the recital of "The Lord's Prayer") one must soon beg the question (in the above schools): Whose religion?

JOHNE HUNTER
Glasgow



John McGovern, ILP and Labour Party MP for Shettleston, Glasgow, from 1930 to 1959.

When socialism was vocal

Sir, — It was interesting to note in your bicentenary supplement a picture of James Maxton in full vocal oratory, presumably ablaze with socialistic rhetoric. Those were the days of the Clydeside rebels: Campbell Stephen, George Buchanan, James Maxton, John McGovern, James Carmichael.

What would the present Labour Cabinet think of them today? Militants? It is interesting to note that these were members of the Independent Labour Party, the political wing of the Labour movement. It was discarded as being too militant for the vote-catching emerging Labour-cum-trade union faction.

Willie Stewart, the secretary of the ILP and biographer of Keir Hardie, was a stalwart in this field of propaganda. When they killed the ILP they put paid to a socialist movement and created the present Labour Party as a semi-capitalist organisation. It is a far cry from the International Congress in Paris 1889, inspired by Keir Hardie, representing Britain, to the present ideology of the Labour Party. In 1889 a resolution was passed at

conference "in favour of an eight hour day; A Minimum wage; Prohibition of Child Labour and unhealthy occupations and the abolition of standing Armies." Not too militant? In the words of Willie Stewart "the International was, and still is a historic phenomenon, vastly more important than the English Magna Carta, the American Declaration of Independence or the Fall of the Bastille. It was the summation of these to establish the rights of man."

It is now a historical fact that the ILP concentrated on open air meetings (no TV or mikes), its main theme the right of free speech. The heyday of the great orators, from J. Bruce Glasier and Keir Hardie down to the Clydeside rebels, are now lost in the limbo, but surely the disarray inside the Labour movement can in no way now diminish the amazing contributions these stalwarts gave to the great socialist cause.

John E. Hunter

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May your 'Worker City' keep up
the momentum

taken rather 'out' of context Jack

ACADEMIC'S SWIPE AT 'SLEEK' CITY

Image men are blasted

SOAP BOX

VICE-convenor of Strathclyde Regional Council William Perry's talk of an increase of £80 on next year's poll tax is not on.

His prediction could be a double-edged sword.

His view that this increase would be passed on to those already paying the tax to subsidise non-payers is ridiculous.

This immoral policy of "divide and conquer" could result in the opposite effect - in inviting an all-out Scottish boycott of the poll tax.

V. Butler, Glasgow.

WRITE TO: SOAP BOX,
THE GLASWEGIAN,
40 ANDERSTON QUAY,
GLASGOW.

THE city's sleek 1990 image has been blasted as a "sick joke" by a senior academic at Glasgow University.

And Sean Damer slams the city's rulers past and present for their insensitivity to ordinary Glaswegians.

In his new book, *Glasgow Going for a Song*, sociologist Damer claims generations of city fathers have failed to provide people with housing and employment opportunities they deserve.

Among his targets are:

- Modern Labour Party bosses for abandoning the city to "speculators and hustlers".

- Pre-war councils for their "Calvinistic mean-mindedness" in constructing drab housing schemes.

- Freemasons for, he alleges, bigoted employment and housing practices.

And he claims the living conditions imposed on Glasgow's poor today are the worst in Britain and beyond.

He said: "I took a Polish film-maker on a tour of Blackhill, and she was horrified."

"The miserly design and appalling living conditions were worse in her eyes than

By RONNIE CONVERY

the Stalinist monstrosities of Warsaw."

But it is the modern city fathers who come in for the author's fiercest criticism.

He said: "Glasgow's problem is that it is a worker's city whose rulers resolutely pretend it is something else."

Future

"The council seems to see the future of Glasgow as a city of cocktail-makers and boutique owners."

● As part of his research into Glasgow life, Sean Damer is anxious to contact anyone who knew Alexander MacArthur, the author of *No Mean City*, who killed himself in 1947.

Anyone who knew the writer should contact The Glaswegian.